

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT NO. 25X1

TOPIC Wittstock Airfield 25X1

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 9 June to 6 July 1952

DATE OBTAINED 25X1 DATE PREPARED 12 August 1952

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The following air activities were observed at Wittstock airfield between 9 June and 5 July 1952:
- 9 June. Three jet fighters practiced flying at the field in cloudless weather.
- 10 June. One MiG-15 each took off at 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.
- 11 June. Night flying was practiced by MiG-15s between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m.
- 12 June. Four MiG-15s and two U-2s made night flights from 9 to 11 p.m.
- 13 June. There was flying by two jet fighters between 10 and 10:30 a.m. The weather was very cloudy.
- 1 July. At 8 a.m., two MiG-15s fitted with auxiliary fuel tanks under their wings took off heading east. About 8:20 a.m., two detonations at an interval of about 5 seconds were heard from the east. The two planes landed at 8:30 a.m. (1) They had the numbers 1532 and 1536. Two other MiG-15s without auxiliary fuel tanks took off at 9 a.m. and landed at 9:10 a.m. Another two MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks took off at 9:30 a.m. No detonations were heard after this take off. At 8 a.m., 18 MiG-15s and 1 U-2 were counted at the field. Flying was continuously practiced between 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.
- 2 July. There was night flying between 9:30 p.m. and 1:30 a.m.
- 5 July. No flying was observed at the field.
2. On 26 June tent camp near the Rote Muehle Inn was no longer there; the Rote Muehle Inn was still occupied by soldiers wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered blue epaulets. On 28 June, the temporary buildings, item No 32, were completed and occupied by soldiers who wore blue epaulets. The low wooden buildings Nos 26, 27, and 29 were occupied by soldiers wearing blue epaulets, while the temporary building No 28 housed offices. (2) The German workers previously employed by the consumers' association were dismissed on 1 July. The general's wife was still observed at the field on 6 July. (3) A searchlight was located near the AA guns on the western edge of the field.

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3. Above 6 p.m. on 23 June, about 10 MiG-15s and two twin-engine aircraft were observed outside the closed hangars at the field. There was no flying. Six canvas-covered light AA guns were parked in an area, about 150m/100 meters large in the southwestern corner of the field, about 200 meters from the Wittstock highway. (4) A Dumbo type radar set and about 10 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets were observed in the yard of the Rote Muehle Inn. (5)

4. The following air activities were observed between 16 June and 1 July:
16 June. About 5 p.m., MiG-15s took off individually and in elements of two.
17 June. After 4:30 p.m., MiG-15s made local flights and individual high-altitude flights.
18 June. Flying started at 10 a.m. The sky was partly cloudy. Flights in elements of two were also observed.
19 June. MiG-15s made high-altitude flights and engaged in aerobatics.
22 June. Flying was practiced during the morning up to 12:30 p.m. There was very cloudy weather.
26 June. MiG-15s with auxiliary fuel tanks started individual flying at 11:15 a.m. The sky was 6 to 8/10 overcast. The planes flew above the clouds. At 2:30 p.m., two jet fighters [redacted] took off simultaneously. Eight additional jet fighters were parked at the take-off point, and many jet fighters were observed in front of the hangars.
27 June. Jet fighters practiced night flying.
1 July. Intensive flying was practiced throughout the day and at night.

5. On 1 July, source observed a second Dumbo type radar set near the hospital at the western edge of the Rockstaedter Hill. Nearby there was a small brick building at which several lines converged from the radar set, one line from the Rote Muehle Inn, and one overhead line coming from the east. A wire basket, about 1.5 meter in diameter, was fitted at a corner of the flat roof of this building. It did not rotate although there was flying activity. Another Dumbo type radar set was in the yard of the Rote Muehle Inn. (5)

Comments.

(1) The alleged auxiliary fuel containers undoubtedly are bombs which were dropped over the Gadow-Rosow bombing range east of Wittstock.

(2) For location of buildings, [redacted]. The soldiers who were quartered in the tent camp near the Rote Muehle Inn, northwest of the field are assigned to an air force signal communication unit which has not yet been identified.

(3) This information indicates that General Smirnov who is believed to be the commanding officer of the fighter corps headquarters stationed at Wittstock, is still present at the field.

(4) These six light AA guns are believed to be the previously reported six 85-mm guns. [redacted] The information that they are light AA guns is believed to be correct since, according to previous reports, only bomber airfields are protected by light as well as heavy AA guns.

(5) Dumbo type radar sets are known from previous reports according to which there are four sets. Two sets are continuously in operation, while at least one of the two remaining sets appears to belong to the radar school stationed in Wittstock. The Soviet soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets are undoubtedly assigned to the radar set near the Rote Muehle Inn. It is not definitely known, whether all the radar sets in the Soviet Zone of Germany are operated by soldiers or whether some sets are operated by air force personnel. [redacted]

(6) These statements confirm that Wittstock airfield is still occupied by a jet fighter regiment. The report does not contain any new information as to the air activity and status of training at Wittstock airfield. [redacted]

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